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BOGNOR REGIS URBAN DISTRICT

INTERIM REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1940

BY

H. MICHAEL AYRES

M.R.C.S. (Eng), L.R.C.P. (Lond), D.T.M. & H. (Camb), D.P.H. (Camb).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

BOGNOR REGIS.

July, 1941

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Following instructions from the Ministry of Health a short Interim Report has been prepared for the year 1940, but has been delayed, as in previous years, because it has been necessary to wait for statistics to be received from the Registrar General's office.

There is nothing outstanding on which a special report should be made but all the routine work of the Department has been maintained.

An exceptional standard of health has been maintained in the district, and this is very satisfactory considering the movement of population into the town, i.e., evacuees and military.

The co-operation between the Department and the Military Authorities has generally been satisfactory, and any matters which needed attention have been considered in detail.

Any matters of importance have been brought before the Public Health and Emergency Committees, and I am deeply indebted for the unstinted support which has been accorded to me.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

H.M. AYRES.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	2,695
Population (Census, 1921)	11,490
Population (Census, 1931)	13,510
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (1940)	23,410
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	2,237
Number of inhabited houses (1940)	7,263
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921).	2,525
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931).	3,239
Rateable value	£311,118
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,138

2. Social Conditions and Occupations

The district is a residential one and essentially a seaside health resort. There are no large factories, and there are no occupations which have a definite prejudicial effect on health.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births -

	Ttl.	Males.	Fem.	
Live Births -				Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population mid 1940... ..... 10.8.....
Legitimate	238	119	119	
Illegitimate	14	7	7	
	252	126	126	
Still Births -				Rate per 1000 total (live & still births) births.....30.8
Legitimate	7	5	2	
Illegitimate... ...	1	-	1	
	8	5	3	
Deaths -				
	313	139	174	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated average population...13.4

Total number of deaths occuring in Public Institutions.....64
(Percentage of total deaths 20.4)

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth

From Sepsis...	0
From other causes...	0
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	8
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	31.7
There were 238 legitimate children born and 8 deaths, therefore the death rate per 1000 is.	33.6
There were 14 illegitimate children born and no deaths	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40
Deaths from Measles(all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (allages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea, etc, (under two years of age). ...	1

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth Rate	14.6	(15.0)
Death Rate	14.3	(12.1)
Infant Mortality Rate	55	(50)

(The figures in brackets represent the rates for the year 1939)

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases were notified during 1940:-

	RESIDENTS													EVACUEES													
	AGES													AGES													
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 plus	TOTAL	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 plus	TOTAL	TOTAL EVACUEES & RESIDENTS.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	-	1	1	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12
Scarlet Fever	-	1	4	2	2	19	8	4	3	2	1	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	51
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	6	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	3	4	3	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Measles	5	17	23	37	33	235	31	7	11	4	1	-	404	-	1	-	3	4	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	30	434
Whooping Cough	9	6	10	12	13	72	8	1	2	1	-	1	135	2	1	3	1	6	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	157
	14	24	37	52	49	332	55	13	24	15	12	3.	630	2	2	3	4	10	35	5	-	-	-	-	-	61	691

It is gratifying to be able to note that the incidence of infectious disease amongst evacuees compares very favourably with that of residents.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Cont'd).

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-six new cases (compared with 44 in 1939) were added to the register during 1940:-

Pulmonary Males	15	Non-pulmonary Males	4
" Females	7	" Females	-
	22		4

There were twelve deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 11 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This gives a death rate of 0.513 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.697 for England and Wales.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at December 31st 1940, was 197.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

As in previous years, swabs for examination for the presence of K.L.B. or haemolytic streptoccocci, and specimens for typhoid bacilli have been submitted to Dr. F. Standish for examination during 1940, both by the Health Department and by general practitioners.

The number of examinations of swabs and specimens submitted was as follows:-

Specimens	No: Submitted for Examination.
(1) Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	378
Virulence Tests for Diphtheria	5
(2) Swabs for Scarlet Fever	136
(3) Specimens for Typhoid and paratyphoid Fever	2
(4) Specimens for Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	44
(5) Other specimens	20
	585

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during 1940:-

Scarlet Fever	67
Diphtheria	14
Chicken Pox	5
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	10
Whooping Cough... ...	2
Erysipelas	4
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1
Mumps	2
Pneumonia	2
Measles...	22
Observation	22
	151

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

(1) TUBERCULOSIS.

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to the Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants (for children).

(2) MATERNITY

The County Council arrange for cases to be admitted to:-

(a) Brighton Hospital for Women.
(b) Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.
(c) Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.

The emergency Maternity Homes established for the reception of evacuated expectant mothers have now been closed. Admissions of evacuated expectant mothers to the above-named hospitals have been arranged by the County Council.

(3) CHILDREN.

The County Council arranges whenever necessary for the admission of children under the age of 12 months to the Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton. One case was received there during the year.

(4) SMALLPOX.

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small-Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(5) GENERAL

St: Richard's Hospital Chichester, has an accommodation of 144 beds which are available for general cases.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital (27 beds)
(2) Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester (334 beds).

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) For infectious cases, the Local Authority possesses a modern motor ambulance.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the Local Authority has a modern motor ambulance staffed by a whole time driver-mechanic and volunteers from the local St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Detachments. During the year the mileage covered on non-infectious and accident cases, was 8,350, and the cases conveyed were as follows:-

Accident Cases	44
Medical Cases	406
	450

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES

A. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

Arrangements are unchanged from the previous year.

Special ante-natal clinics have been conducted at fortnightly intervals for evacuated expectant mothers.

B. SCHOOL CLINICS

School Clinics have been held as during the previous year and the service has been extended to evacuee school-children.

C. NUTRITION CLINICS

These have been conducted as during the previous year.

Evacuee school children are inspected, and, if necessary provided with extra milk or malt and oil.

D. TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS

These have been held at the Chapel Street Clinic, Chichester, as previously.

E. VENEREAL DISEASES

The County Council's arrangements for clinics to be held at Worthing and Portsmouth are unchanged.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Bognor Regis District Nursing Association employs five nurses, three of whom carry out general district nursing.

The West Sussex County Council makes a grant to the County Nursing Association for nursing services in connection with child welfare and home visiting of cases of tuberculosis.

Two other nurses under the direct supervision of the County Nursing Association, attend the minor ailments, and Nutrition Clinics and carry out duties in connection with the School Medical Service.

BOGNOR REGIS AND DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CARE FUND.

The Children's Care Fund was inaugurated in 1932 to assist necessitous cases among the children living in Bognor Regis and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

Its assistance in such cases has been continued in 1940, and, in certain circumstances, has been extended to evacuees.

There is, at the present time, more distress in the town than there has been during the last ten years. The reason for this is the higher cost of living and other circumstances.

Under the Boot Club Scheme, any children may obtain boots or have them repaired, and there is no need for any of the local children to be without footwear.

Arrangements have also been made to supply clothing, and gifts of second-hand articles are urgently required.

WATER

Details of the water undertaking have not been included in this Report, but the Water Engineer has submitted a separate report to the Council giving details of the precautions which have been taken to cover all emergencies.

HOUSING

The important work on housing has continued, and 1652 visits have been made, notwithstanding the large amount of extra work the Sanitary Inspectors have been called upon to carry out. The details of this work are omitted from this Report but are always available.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and ice-cream sampling has been carried out as in previous years, and visits have been paid to cowsheds, dairies; bakehouses, stores and places where food is prepared and sold. Details of the foregoing inspections are available.

Inspection of carcases slaughtered locally was carried out until January, 1940, when local slaughtering ceased. Meat inspection at butchers' shops continued, however, to be carried out.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & SHOPS ACT 1934

Visits have been paid in accordance with the scope of these Acts.

RATS AND MICE

Many visits have been paid to premises in connection with rats and mice, advice given, and appropriate action taken.

MISCELLANEOUS NUISANCES

All complaints have been investigated, and where necessary, action has been taken.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme, providing for main drainage facilities and the abolition of cesspits in the added areas was completed early in the year. Good progress was made with cesspit abolition, 100 cesspits being abolished during the year. At the 31st December 1940, there were 644 cesspits in the area.

It is a matter for regret that the making up and sewering of private streets which had been prepared for, had to be postponed.

PB
23.8.41.

I N D E X

	Page
Ambulance Facilities	8
Area	2
Births and Birth-Rate... ...	2
Cancer..	2
Cesspools, abolition of. ...	10
Children's Care Fund	9
Clinics.	8
Deaths and Death Rate... ...	2
Diphtheria	3,5&6
Drainage	10
Factories and Workplaces ...	10
Foods, Meat and Other ...	10
General Statistics	2
Hospitals	6 &7
Houses (Inhabited)..	2
Housing	10
Infantile Mortality.	2
Infectious Diseases.	2,3, 4, 5&6
Infectious Diseases Hospital..	6
Laboratory Facilities.. ...	5
Measles	2
Meat and Other Foods... ...	10
Milk	10
Nuisances...	10
Nursing in the Home	8
Population..	2
Rateable Value	2
Rats and Mice Destruction Act.	10
Scarlet Fever	3, 5 & 6
Sewerage	10
Shops Act, 1934.. ...	10
Social Conditions ...	2
Still Births	2
Treatment Centres ...	8
Tuberculosis	4
Venereal Diseases ...	8
Vital Statistics ...	2
Water	10
Whooping Cough... ...	2